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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vital Sites Seeks Potential Partners and Tenants for Historic Brennan House

Vital Sites, preservation and community redevelopment nonprofit, seeks partners and tenants with an interest in the revitalization and adaptive reuse of the historic Ronald-Brennan House, located at 631 South 5th Street in downtown Louisville. For more than 35 years, the Brennan House has served as a house museum and offices for the Kentucky Opera and then Preservation Louisville, which was absorbed by Vital Sites in 2017.

At the time it was built in 1868, the Brennan House was one of many fashionable residences on 5th Street; now it remains as one of the only Victorian houses still standing downtown. The Brennan House is ready to engage in uses beyond that of an historic house museum. Vital Sites seeks to bring new life to the Brennan House and ensure its long-term sustainability.

To achieve this, Vital Sites has drafted a Request for Interest (RFI) document regarding the Brennan House with the guidance of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This document provides background on the house and gives information on the location, potential future uses, and all submission requirements. The house will be open for tours on Thursday, December 13, 2018 and Friday, January 11, 2019. Responses must be submitted to Vital Sites by Monday, January 21, 2019. The RFI and all the electronic attachments indicated can be viewed at www.vitalsites.org/brennan-house-RFI

Vital Sites provides solutions to encourage investment in and development of historic properties, creating value in Louisville's neighborhoods. The organization's first venture, East Broadway Row, has resulted in the rehabilitation of five late nineteenth-century shotgun houses on East Broadway near Baxter Avenue and Cave Hill Cemetery. The houses were donated to Vital Sites by the former owner of the Phoenix Hill Tavern. East Broadway Row presents a new paradigm for preservation in Louisville: the partnership of Vital Sites, a nonprofit, with a private landowner and a private developer. This creative private-nonprofit partnership is a model of how large-scale new development and smaller scale renovation can work cooperatively and creatively to revitalize neighborhoods.

In 2015, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Louisville the first citywide member of its National Treasure portfolio. Vital Sites has been developed with the guidance of the Research and Policy Lab (formerly the Preservation Green Lab) of the National Trust, which has used Louisville as an urban laboratory for the past three years. Vital Sites is the acting name of the Louisville Preservation Fund, a revolving fund created at the time Whiskey Row was saved from demolition in 2012. The public-private partnership has transformed a declining block of Main Street into a thriving center of restaurants, residences, museum, and hotel and is a model Vital Sites seeks to duplicate in the future.

About Vital Sites: Vital Sites is a nonprofit launched to use adaptive reuse and development as tools to build healthy, sustainable communities in Metro Louisville. www.VitalSites.org

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation: The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. www.SavingPlaces.org

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sustaining healthy communities